

THE MILITANT

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Thatcher led British rulers
assault on workers in 1980s
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 17 MAY 6, 2013

Join 'Militant' campaign, build Active Workers Conference

BY LOUIS MARTIN

The *Militant* is calling on supporters of the socialist newsweekly to join a seven-week international subscription campaign from May 4 through June 25.

The goal is to win thousands of new and renewing subscribers, sell hundreds of books on working-class revolutionary politics, collaborate in political activity with working people attracted to the socialist press, and — beginning now — put together an Active Workers Conference this summer.

Socialist Workers Party election campaigns in cities across the U.S. will strengthen the effort to reach and involve workers, farmers and revolutionary-minded young people looking for a class-struggle road to confront the deepening crisis of capitalism.

The Active Workers Conference — July 18-20 in Oberlin, Ohio — will provide a unique and much needed

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Miners protest coal companies' anti-union bankruptcy scheme

UMWA calls April 29 mobilization in St. Louis



Militant/Alyson Kennedy

Some 1,000 coal miners and supporters rally in St. Louis April 16 to protest moves by Patriot Coal to use bankruptcy proceedings to dump retiree pensions and gut UMWA contracts.

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

ST. LOUIS — On April 16 members of the United Mine Workers of America rallied here for the fifth time to protest the assault on coal miners by Peabody, Patriot and Arch

Coal companies. Some 7,000 miners demonstrated April 1 in Charleston, W.Va., in the largest action by miners in many years.

Some 1,000 miners — joined by delegations from the United Steelworkers, UNITE HERE and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists — marched to Memorial Park across from Peabody World Headquarters,

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Texas plant blast: 'Bosses don't care about safety'

BY STEVE WARSHALL

HOUSTON — Press reports paint a picture of blatant disregard for safety by warehouse owners and government agencies in a massive industrial explosion April 17 that killed 14 people and injured more than 200 in the town of West, about 70 miles south of Dallas.

After workers had gone home for the day, members of the local volunteer fire department responded to a call to extinguish a small fire at the West Fertilizer chemical storage facility. Based on conflicting reports, somewhere between 20 and 120 minutes after the fire started, the facility exploded, registering 2.1 on the earthquake Richter Scale, and destroying more than 150 homes, a nearby intermediate school, a nursing home and two other buildings. A majority of the 14 killed were firefighters, including one who was a worker at the plant.

According to a company report filed with state and local agencies in the last year, the facility housed 110,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia, which becomes volatile when heated to a gas, and some 270 tons of

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Socialist Workers campaign: Legalize! Organize! Unionize!



Militant/Naomi Craine

March in Miami April 6 demands halt to deportations and legalization of immigrant workers.

The following statement was released April 23 by the Socialist Workers Party election campaign ticket in Seattle of Mary Martin for mayor, Edwin Fruit for City Council Position 6 and John Naubert for port commissioner.

Working people here in the U.S. and around the world face an assault by bosses on our living standards, working conditions, solidarity and very dignity under the impact of the

deepening crisis of capitalism. Life and limb are at stake in the exploiters' profit drive, as the explosion in West, Texas, has brought into stark relief.

SWP CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

This poses the burning need to build and strengthen unions today.

Organized labor is in the center of their gun sights — from miners employed by Patriot Coal to bus drivers

Continued on page 9

Venezuelan election highlights deepening social crisis of capitalism, US intervention

BY SETH GALINSKY

Two things above all were laid bare with the April 14 election of Nicolás Maduro as president of Venezuela. Washington remains determined to undermine a government whose policies have run crosswise with those of U.S.

imperialism since the election of former President Hugo Chávez in 1998. At the same time, the March 5 death of Chávez has accelerated the weakening influence of his party — the United Socialist Party of Venezuela — a process rooted in the deepening crisis of capitalism and the economic and social consequences it has wrought on working people there.

Opposition candidate Henrique Capriles demanded a recount after the announcement that Maduro won by a margin of less than 2 percent.

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Gov't uses Boston bombing, shutdown of city to chip away at workers rights

BY TED LEONARD

BOSTON — Cops, FBI agents and other police and spy agencies, coordinated by the Joint Terrorism Task Force, put the Boston metropolitan area on lockdown April 19, as part of efforts by the propertied rulers to use the indiscriminate death and maiming from the bombing at the Boston Marathon four days earlier to further chip away at workers rights.

The bomb attack killed three people

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- Dockworkers in Hong Kong win support for strike 5
- Toronto meeting: 'Jury of millions will free Cuban 5' 7

Socialist candidates in Seattle gain hearing among workers

BY EDWIN FRUIT

SEATTLE — The independent, working-class political voice being put forward by the Socialist Workers Party’s three candidates here is attracting interest among working people.

Edwin Fruit, SWP candidate for Seattle City Council Position 6, campaigned among workers visiting family members incarcerated at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, at an April 13 protest there. The center is a 1,000-bed privately owned jail run for the Department of Homeland Security where undocumented workers are held prior to deportation.

“We join the call to close these jails and to legalize all undocumented workers,” Fruit told protesters. Among other measures working people need to fight for to strengthen and unify our class is “a public works program to put millions of unemployed back to work,” he said.

“You are trying to get out a message, aren’t you?” one participant asked Fruit, and pulled out \$20 to help him get on the ballot.

“I am all for the working people,” Charles Watson, a retired Teamster, told Mary Martin, SWP candidate for Seattle mayor, when she knocked on his door April 6. He bought a *Militant* subscription and a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. “Let me know about any meetings you have,” he said.

Two Internet news services, Seattlemet and Crosscut, have report-

ed on the socialist campaign.

The candidates are well on their way to raising funds required for ballot status. Martin needs \$1,800 and Fruit \$1,200. The funds for John Naubert, SWP candidate for port commissioner, have already been collected. Martin and Fruit are about 50 percent toward their goals, with a mid-May deadline.

They are seeking donations of \$25 or less, so they don’t have to disclose contributors’ names. “The candidates are turning restrictive state requirements into an opportunity to reach out,” Martin told the *Militant*.

Anyone interested in more information, or in making a contribution, can contact the campaign at 5418 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98118, or call 206-323-1755.



Militant photos by Clay Dennison

Above, Edwin Fruit, SWP candidate for Seattle City Council Position 6, campaigns among workers visiting family members detained at Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash., April 13. Inset, Mary Martin, SWP candidate for Seattle mayor, speaks with retired Teamster Charles Watson during door-to-door campaigning in Seattle.

Texas: NAACP organizes protest against Confederate memorial

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

PALESTINE, Texas — Some 30 people marched in this small east Texas city April 13 to protest the opening of Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza by the Sons of the Confederate Veterans. The privately owned plaza features five flags, four of them from the Confederacy.

The Confederate flag “symbolizes hatred, depression, oppression and slavery,” said Kenneth Davidson, president of the Palestine NAACP branch, as he kicked off the march.

In April 2011 the Sons of the Confederate Veterans got approval from the Anderson County Commission-

ers’ Court to raise a Confederate flag in front of the county courthouse for “Confederate History Month,” an official commemoration in the state. Protests organized by the NAACP succeeded in getting the flag removed after four days. Plans for the private plaza, complete with five tall flagpoles, began after that.

The *Palestine Herald-Press*, as well as other radio and TV media, promoted the Confederate flag-raising ceremony, attended by more than 200 people.

Local police prevented marchers from passing the Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza. But later in the day, protesters went to the plaza, where they talked with observers, including workers from the area.

“We came here because when we heard about the park with the flags, we knew it wasn’t right,” said José Estrada, who came with his brother Fernando.

“I remember when that flag was hung over the courthouse in 2011,” Fernando Estrada added. “Think of it. You are going into the court with that flag flying. You know right away you are not going

to get any kind of justice there!”

“That flag is about the war that was fought to end slavery,” Gary Bledsoe, president of the Texas NAACP, told the rally. “When you see that flag today you feel as if you don’t belong. You are supposed to feel that way.”

“Campaigning door to door in working-class neighborhoods all over Houston, we’ve learned how many workers understand our common interests, from opposing racist attacks to fighting for the rights of immigrants and women and joining with other workers resisting the effects of the capitalist crisis,” Michael Fitzsimmons, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Houston mayor, told rally participants.

Franklin Gans, from the Orange, Texas, NAACP chapter urged others to join in protesting plans to erect a Confederate memorial there.

Earlier this year, the city council in Memphis, Tenn., voted to rename three city parks that honored the Confederacy. Some 60 members of the white supremacist Ku Klux Klan rallied there March 30 to protest the move.

THE MILITANT

Join June 1 rally in D.C. to demand: ‘Free Cuban 5!’

The ‘Militant’ champions the international fight to free the Cuban Five revolutionaries, framed up and jailed in the U.S. for nearly 15 years. Join the rally June 1 in front of the White House as part of “Five Days for the Five” activities taking place May 30 through June 5.



Militant/Ned Measel
Rally in Washington, D.C., April 21, 2012, demanding freedom for the Cuban Five.

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Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Subscription campaign

Continued from front page

opportunity for workers to come together, exchange experiences and discuss politics.

Participants will include workers who have been engaged in labor actions, skirmishes on the job and other political activities, as well as others attracted to the SWP election campaigns and interested in efforts to expand readership of the *Militant*.

The conference will include panel presentations and discussions by working people on union and social battles they have been part of, talks and classes on developments in world politics and other activities.

Supporters of the *Militant* will also organize a fund drive during the subscription effort — the Militant Fighting Fund — with an international goal of raising \$115,000 to help cover operating expenses of the paper.

An important aspect of the campaign is an effort to sell hundreds of copies of nine books on revolutionary working-class politics offered at reduced prices with a subscription (see ad below).

Added to the list from the previous drive is *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. As its back cover explains, it “is a handbook for the generations of workers coming into the factories, mines and mills — workers who will react to the uncertain life, ceaseless turmoil, and brutality that will accompany the arrival of the twenty-first century. ... Above all, it aims to show why only the working class can lead humanity out of the social crisis endemic to capitalism in its decline. It shows how millions of workers, as

political resistance grows, will revolutionize themselves, their unions and all of society.”

Militant readers will use the spring drive to bring solidarity along with an international revolutionary perspective to labor fights where industrial workers are putting up resistance. Such actions are important, no matter their size. Through experiences in the class struggle working people learn valuable lessons about the exploiters and ourselves, become aware of what we can accomplish and gain confidence to lead social and political struggles that prepare the fight for our class to wrest and wield political power.

As in recent campaigns, selling the *Militant* door to door in working-class neighborhoods will be at the center of the spring drive. Supporters of the paper will go more broadly into the working class, whose lives and outlooks are being shaken by the crisis — from big cities to small towns and rural areas; from coal mines in Appalachia to garment factories in Los Angeles, New York and Miami.

The *Militant* will be used to engage in discussions about our common interests as workers and the need for all labor to champion union battles and social struggles that help strengthen and unify our class.

Along these lines, the subscription drive and socialist election campaigns will help build actions like the April 29 United Mine Workers protest in St. Louis against union-busting moves by Patriot Coal, May Day actions pressing for legalization of undocumented workers, and the June 1 demonstration in front of the White House to demand freedom for the Cuban Five as part of “Five Days for the Cuban



Militant photos by Cheryl Goertz (top); Cecelia Moriarity (bottom)

Top, John Benson (right), SWP candidate for Atlanta mayor, and supporter Rachele Fruit (left) show *The Cuban Five* to participant at April 10 immigrant rights march there. Bottom, John Naubert (left), SWP candidate for Seattle Port Commissioner, campaigning in Seattle area.

Five” from May 30 to June 5. (See ad on page 2 and photobox on page 7.)

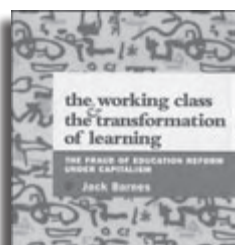
These events will provide opportunities to sell hundreds of subscriptions and books. Because they are part and parcel of the political course

of the May 4-June 25 drive, subscriptions sold at the April 29 and May 1 actions will count toward local quotas adopted by *Militant* distributors in each area.

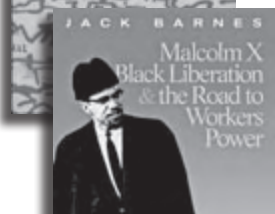
Join the international effort to expand the circulation of the *Militant*. If you’re interested in taking part in the Active Workers Conference, start planning now and contact distributors in your area (see directory on page 8).

This column will cover the campaign on a weekly basis. Your reports, comments and photos are crucial. Send them by 9 a.m., EDT, Monday morning.

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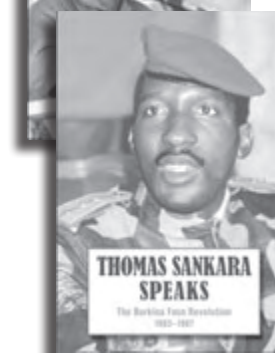
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Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions
by Jack Barnes
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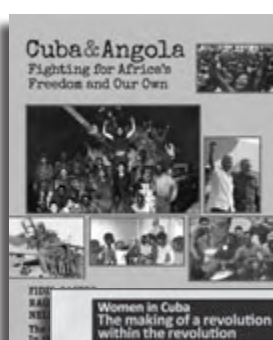


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See distributors on page 8



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by Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters and others
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—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

IOWA
Des Moines
Legalization for All Immigrants Now!
Speaker: Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Des Moines City Council. Fri., May 3, 7:30 p.m. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 707-1779.

TEXAS
Houston
Defend Workers Rights! Oppose Attacks on Constitutional Protections and Political Space. Speaker: Michael Fitzsimmons, SWP candidate for mayor of Houston. Fri., May 3, 7:30 p.m. 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-50L. Tel.: (713) 688-4919.

UNITED KINGDOM
Manchester
Election of New Pope and Attempts to Increase the Church's Political Influence: What Does It Mean for Working People? Speaker: Dag Tirsén, Communist League. Sat., May 4, 6 p.m. Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St., M1 2EH. Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.

After 20 months sugar workers approve contract, lockout ends

‘Now we need to stay together as a union’

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

HILLSBORO, N.D. — After being locked out for 20 months, workers at American Crystal Sugar Co. voted April 13 by a margin of 55 percent to approve the company’s latest contract offer. The agreement, which runs through July 31, 2017, is essentially the same as four previous concession contracts voted down by members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union.

“The vote total was what I figured it would be,” said Randy Anderson, who was locked out at American Crystal’s plant in Drayton. “One of my concerns is the longer we hold out, the less union people we would have in the plant,” said Anderson. He estimates about 75 workers will return to work in Drayton, about half the number working there before the lockout.

“One problem we had was the lockout dragged on for too long,” said Anderson. “We should have had meetings with everybody from all five plants. If we had worked together, we would have come up with a plan a while back on how to move forward.”

American Crystal, the largest U.S. sugar-beet producer, locked out all 1,300 workers Aug. 1, 2011, at its five mills in North Dakota and Minnesota and at two small processing plants in southern Minnesota and Iowa, after BCTGM members rejected the company’s concession demands by 96 percent. Later that year, a second contract offer was rejected by 90 percent. The third and fourth offers were voted down by narrower margins of 63 percent in June 2012 and 55 percent in December.

The approved contract includes a return-to-work clause stipulating a “good-faith effort” by the company to return locked-out workers to their previous jobs in about six weeks. “The transition period to bring them back is expected to be complex and patience will be required by all parties,” said a statement on American Crystal’s website. Phone calls requesting comment from company representatives were not returned.

“We are worried about the company’s statement about ‘good faith,’” said Becki Jacobson, from the Moorhead, Minn., plant. “I am not happy at all with the contract. The company will have a stronger say on who fills job openings, who qualifies for full-time jobs, who gets promotions, how work is contracted out. Many of us feel there will be a target on our backs.”

American Crystal remained intransigent in its demands, which included replacing some union jobs with contract workers, ending seniority for recall after seasonal layoffs, expanding second-tier workers, the ability to increase health care costs at whim, and eliminating retiree health coverage for new hires.

American Crystal bosses prepared the lockout well in advance, hiring the scab-herding outfit Strom Engineering to line up hundreds of replacement workers, who started working the day after the lockout began.

With half the company’s employees either resigned or retired in the course of the lockout, “the majority of those replacement employees will be able to stay with the company,” American

Crystal Vice President Brian Ingulsrud told the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*.

“I understand those who voted against the contract and are disappointed with the outcome, and I understand those who voted for it,” said Brady Stevenson, 25, who worked at the Drayton plant for 11 months before the lockout. “Now we need to go back and stay together as a union. We will have to work with scabs who crossed the line and some former union members that crossed as well. I have less time in the factory. I think this process is harder for those that worked 20 to 30 years in the plant, but we have to move on.”

During the lockout, union members organized rallies, food drives, solidarity caravans, and expanded picket lines and raised thousands of dollars in contributions from other unions. But these activities tapered off after the first eight months. More and more workers retired. Many others got new jobs, including out of state. And after the fourth contract vote, a trickle of locked-out workers started to cross the picket line.

Cops, courts side with bosses

Local cops and courts sided with the company, as did politicians in the region, either openly or by their refusal to side with the embattled workers. Three unionists on both sides of the state border were framed up for alleged incidents with scabs on the picket line.

Some 400 workers in North Dakota were denied unemployment benefits until a district court decision was narrowly overturned by the state Supreme Court Feb. 26. The pretext for the denial had been an interpretation of a 1981 law that said employees who are not working “due to a strike, sympathy strike, or work stoppage dispute of any kind which exists because of a labor dispute” would not be eligible for jobless compensation. The American Crystal case was the first time the state job service sought to withhold benefits to locked-out workers on that basis.

On April 17 the North Dakota leg-

Bosses disregard safety measures in Texas explosion

Continued from front page

ammonium nitrate, a common fertilizer also used for bombs.

Between the reporting of the fire and the explosion there was no attempt to evacuate the area. Kevin Malar, among the surviving volunteer firefighters, said he got a call from a former manager of the fertilizer company while en route to the fire, reported the *Wall Street Journal*. When Malar said West Fertilizer was on fire, the caller responded, “Boy, you got to get everyone out of there — at least a quarter mile away.”

“This tragedy will continue to hurt deeply for generations to come,” West Fertilizer owner Donald Adair said in a company statement two days after the disaster. He and his wife, Vice President Wanda Adair, who is also a director of the West Chamber of Commerce, have refused phone calls from the media, according to press accounts.

The company was reportedly fined in 2006 by the Environmental Protection Agency for not updating its risk-management plan, among other violations. Last



Militant photos by Frank Forrestal

Top, demonstration in Fargo, N.D., Oct. 8, 2011, backing locked-out sugar workers. Bottom, volunteers that same month unload food donations from Teamster truck in Drayton, N.D.

islature voted 62-30 to explicitly add lockouts to the list of labor disputes that in the future will not qualify for unemployment benefits. The new law is before Gov. Jack Dalrymple for signing.

“I voted against the first two contracts, and voted for the last three,” said Pat Mooney at the union hall here. “I’ve been working a job at half the pay I had and I am way behind on my bills. The union needs to get back in the plant.”

“No one was impressed with the contract,” said Scott Aubol, who had worked 34 years at American Crystal’s plant in Crookston, Minn. “Many couldn’t afford to stay out longer. It was cruel what the company did. They starved us out.”

“It was a long drawn out thing,” said Brian Berg. “I voted against it because there was no trade-off. I wish more of us could have hung in there longer.”

“The lockout cost the company a lot of money, and its reputation,” said Wayne Netterlund, who recently retired. “Was it worth it? I’m not sure. I think there were not any winners.”

“It’s true that we didn’t win any concessions from the company, but we did accomplish some things,” said Jacobson. “We made a lot of friends. We reached out to unions and received lots of support — from Steelworkers, Teamsters, and many others. More than that, just ordinary people showed their support for our fight in all kinds of ways over the past 20 months. We are different people from this experience. Now we go back in the plants. It won’t be easy. The fight will go on.”

In the coming weeks, union workers will be attending company meetings to learn the details of returning to work.

year a bureau within the Department of Transportation levied fines of \$5,250 for safety violations.

In a risk-management plan filed with the Environmental Protection Agency in 2011, the company declared it was not handling flammable materials and did not have sprinklers, water-deluge systems, blast walls, fire walls or other safety mechanisms in place at the plant. “The worst-case release scenario would be the release of the total contents of a storage tank released as a gas over 10 minutes,” it stated.

Earlier this year a fire at the warehouse prompted the evacuation of a nearby school.

Much of the criticism in the big-business press has centered on the fact that plant owners did not inform the Department of Homeland Security that the facility contained 1,350 times the filing threshold for ammonium nitrate allowed under DHS regulations aimed at preventing potential bomb-making — which has nothing to do with the disaster.

Meanwhile, the last inspection by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration was conducted in 1985, which resulted in a \$30 fine for improper respiratory protection. OSHA currently has 2,200 inspectors for 8 million worksites nationwide. The agency conducted 4,448 inspections in Texas last year — a pace that would take 126 years to cover the state’s industrial sites.

The same day of the explosion at West Fertilizer, 12 workers were injured in a fire at Exxon’s Beaumont oil refinery.

“That company in West is just like what I see every day along the Houston ship channel,” heavy equipment operator Melvin Thomas told the *Militant*. “They have billions of dollars and would rather pay fines for violations than change things to make them safe. Safety is supposed to be number one, but the big companies don’t care. They just care about the money.”

Jacquie Henderson and Mike Fitzsimmons contributed to this article.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Nurses at Mass. hospital hold 24-hour strike over short staffing

QUINCY, Mass. — Nurses at Quincy Medical Center, an acute care hospital here, walked off the job for 24 hours April 11 to protest layoffs.

“We are out here for one day to make it safe in there everyday,” Paula Ryan, a nurse and chair of the Massachusetts Nurses Association bargaining committee at the hospital, told a rally of 300 striking nurses and their supporters that day.

The 200 nurses at the hospital have been working without a contract since March 31, 2010. Steward Health Care System bought the hospital after previous owners declared bankruptcy in 2011.

Over the past year Steward has eliminated 30 nurse positions through attrition, according to the Nurses Association. In addition, the hospital administrators announced in February that they were shutting down a 40-bed surgical floor and laying off another 30 nurses.

“This hospital is chronically understaffed,” nurse Stacey McEachern told the *Militant*.

In an April 19 phone interview,

Steward Health Care spokesperson Christopher Murphy disputed charges of understaffing, saying the number of nurses was reduced to match a declining number of patients. “The dispute is over compensation,” he said.

Nurse Joanne Hart told the rally that at a recent negotiating meeting the company’s PowerPoint presentation ended with a slide saying, “Steward Health Care: Doing more with less.”

Joining the rally were members of SEIU Local 1199, UNITE HERE Local 26, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, firefighters from Quincy and Boston, and nurses from other area hospitals.

— Ted Leonard and Sarah Ullman

Thousands of teachers protest across New Zealand

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — More than 2,000 teachers and school aides, and supporters, marched and rallied here April 13 in a nationwide day of action called by their union, the New Zealand Educational Institute Te Riu Roa, which is in wage negotiations with the government. Thousands more marched in other cities and towns.

Chanting, whistling and singing



Militant/Ted Leonard

Nurse Paula Ryan, with microphone, addresses April 11 union rally outside Quincy Medical Center in Massachusetts. Nurses, without contract since 2010, say hospital is understaffed.

as they marched up Auckland’s main street, demonstrators waved placards protesting a range of the government’s education policies. Many teachers are also upset with a new computerized pay system reportedly so full of glitches that some have not been paid for months.

Many teachers are concerned that “National Standards” in reading, writing and math begun in 2008 will be used to introduce performance pay.

“We’re just trying to look after our jobs,” teacher Ahi Pere said at the demonstration. “If you’re not up to standard, you’ll get warnings which will affect your registration, and you could be out of the profession very quickly.”

Teachers at public schools have been working without a contract since September last year.

— Felicity Coggan

Miss. abortion clinic fights to prevent closure

BY SUSAN LAMONT

A federal judge in Jackson ruled April 15 that Mississippi’s only abortion clinic can remain open for now, while it tries to comply with new anti-abortion strictures passed by the state legislature last year. The decision came three days before a scheduled Department of Health hearing that was expected to revoke the license of the Jackson Women’s Health Organization.

In 2012 the state legislature passed a measure requiring doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at a local hospital. No hospitals in the Jackson area have been willing to grant such privileges for the clinic’s two doctors, who come from Illinois and North Carolina several times a month to perform abortions.

“We are not going to lie down and take this,” said Laurie Roberts, 34, president of the Mississippi National Organization for Women, in an April 13 phone interview from Jackson. “We will fight! There is support for women’s right to choose in Mississippi.”

A so-called personhood referendum was defeated in Mississippi in November 2011. That measure would have changed the state’s constitution to define life as beginning “from the moment of fertilization,” effectively outlawing abortion and some forms of contraception.

“If the Jackson clinic did close, women would have to go to Memphis or Huntsville or New Orleans for the procedure,” Roberts said. “Coming to Jackson is already a hurdle, because you have to come twice due to the 24-hour waiting period requirement. Women come here from all over the state and from Louisiana, from as young as 15 to grandmothers.” The clinic has been the sole abortion provider in the state since 2002.

A decision on a federal lawsuit filed in 2011 by the New York-based Center for Reproductive Rights, the American Civil Liberties Union, and Planned Parenthood challenging the law’s constitutionality is pending.

The Virginia Board of Health voted April 12 to require abortion clinics in the state to meet stricter hospital-type building codes, such as widening hallways and installing new ventilation systems. Some of Virginia’s 20 clinics, which have two years to comply with the potentially costly requirements, could be forced to close.

Dozens of abortion rights supporters filled the hearing room in Richmond to oppose the measure.

The Alabama Women’s Center for Reproductive Alternatives in Huntsville, the only abortion clinic in northern Alabama, faces the same challenge after the recent passage of a similar law by the state legislature.

“If we go down, we’re going to go down fighting,” clinic administrator Dalton Johnson told the *Militant*. “We’re not going to throw in the towel.” The

clinic has hired an architect to see if the required modifications are feasible for the building.

Other states, including Arizona, Kansas and Michigan, have passed similar measures, all aimed at forcing the closure of abortion clinics. Other providers of outpatient surgical and medical care do not face the same requirements for their facilities.

Meanwhile, a Planned Parenthood clinic in Bloomington, Ind., was vandalized, causing extensive damage during the night of April 11. The clinic was splashed with red paint, windows were broken and computers damaged. The man arrested, Benjamin Curell, said he attacked the building with an ax because people who work at the clinic “murder babies,” according to the Bloomington *Herald Times*. The clinic reopened the following day.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 6, 1988

NEW YORK — Well-known victims of government repression gathered at a rally here to hail a court victory won by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against the FBI and other federal political police agencies.

The April 23 meeting, attended by 130, was one of dozens organized around the country to celebrate the success of the SWP and YSA’s 15-year lawsuit against government spying, harassment, and disruption.

On March 17 the U.S. Justice Department announced its decision to drop its appeal of federal Judge Thomas Griesa’s ruling in the case that such activities are unconstitutional and illegal. The judge also awarded \$264,000 monetary damages to the socialists and permanently barred the government from using the millions of documents illegally compiled on the two organizations.



May 6, 1963

MAY 1 — The William L. Moore memorial “freedom walk” began today as a group of 12 members of the Student Nonviolent Co-ordinating Committee and the Congress of Racial Equality started walking from Chattanooga, Tenn., headed for Jackson, Miss.

Alabama’s “safety director,” Al Lingo, who has earned a reputation for harassing civil-rights fighters, said yesterday of the marchers: “They will be arrested, placed in jail and charged with breach of the peace.”

The man accused of murdering Moore has been released on \$5,000 bail. Floyd Simpson, a grocery-store owner, is charged with shooting Moore with a .22-caliber rifle while Moore walked along Highway 11 outside Attalla, Ala., with two signs draped over him. The signs read: “Equal Rights for All.” and “Eat at Joes, Both Black and White.”



May 7, 1938

Thirty-two persons were reported killed and 48 gravely wounded April 26 when British police opened fire on a throng of 10,000 persons attending an Indian Congress Party rally in the village of Viduraswatam, 150 miles east of Bangalore.

The rally had been organized to protest the ban issued by the Mysore state government against hoisting of the Congress flag.

In subjecting the demonstrators to a blood-bath, the “democratic” British imperialist masters of India achieved a new high point in their ruthless suppression of the downtrodden victims of their rule. Intermittently during the past two years, the British slavedrivers have been carrying out aerial bombing operations against Northwest frontier tribesmen and spreading death and devastation through Indian villages.

Thatcher led British rulers assault on workers in 1980s

Failed to reverse crisis of capitalism, decline of UK

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — The legacy of Margaret Thatcher, leader of the Conservative Party and prime minister from 1979 to 1990, is being widely celebrated among capitalist politicians and other ruling-class figures across the United Kingdom. Obituaries with varying points of view have appeared in major big-business dailies around the world since her death April 8.

Thatcher is widely known, alongside former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, for leading a capitalist offensive throughout the 1980s that included “free market” reforms, claims of credit for the fall of the Stalinist regimes of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and major blows dealt to the labor movement. The Thatcher government is also credited with Britain’s victorious war against Argentina to maintain its colonial domination over the Malvinas Islands.

“Thatcherism” is not a political course that can be implemented at any time — as some capitalist politicians surely would like to do today. Rather it was the response of the dominant section of the British ruling-class to a specific moment in history that Thatcher was well qualified to understand and lead. The course aimed, without success, to turn around the deepening crisis of British capitalism, reverse the U.K.’s declining world role and counter the broader decline of world capitalism in its early stages at the time. In carrying this out, Thatcher was among the more astute ruling-class figures who recognized the weaknesses of their adversaries — from the Argentine dictatorship to the trade unions and their leadership.

The fact is London’s successful 1982 war against Argentina highlighted its dependence on military and political support from Washington, whose aid delivered Britain’s victory. And the Soviet Union collapsed not primarily from external pressure, but as a result of internal weakness resulting from the counterrevolutionary course carried out by the bureaucratic caste that usurped and held political power there since the late 1920s.

Of all Thatcher’s accomplishments, only her government’s successful offensive against the organized labor movement is really significant. And while the British rulers did deal powerful blows, they failed to impose a defeat that could stifle the resistance of labor in any lasting way or push the working class off the center stage of politics.

The U.K. Thatcher inherited

Britain’s world influence had not recovered from the ignominious withdrawal of British, French and Israeli troops from Egypt when Washington pulled the rug from under their invasion of that country following the Egyptian government’s 1956 nationalization of the Suez Canal. By 1979, the year Thatcher became prime minister, U.K. profit rates were markedly on the decline and productivity lagged behind its major competitors. Investment in capacity-expanding plant and equipment had substantially slowed and Britain’s worldwide share

of exported goods had collapsed.

As an economic recession took hold throughout the imperialist world in the mid-1970s, production stagnated and unemployment climbed in Britain, while prices rose by just under 20 percent in one year.

Thatcher replaced the policy of previous administrations with what she called “free market” capitalism: rolling back the involvement of the state in the economy, including through privatization of nationalized industries and financial deregulation.

Thatcher rejected the way that her predecessors — Tories and social democrats alike — had dealt with the unions. The Labour government of Harold Wilson had unsuccessfully attempted to hold back workers’ incomes through wage-price controls and legal curbs on unions. Union action in the late 1960s brought labor to the center stage of politics.

The 1970-74 Conservative government under Edward Heath fared no better, succumbing in the face of massive strike action by miners, construction and engineering workers. Following Heath, another Labour government similarly failed to prevent workers from pressing their interests. Some 13 million days on average were lost yearly in strikes throughout the 1970s.

The Thatcher government prepared for an assault on working people. Early exuberance crashed as steelworkers struck for 13 weeks, winning a 16 percent pay raise, and miners in South Wales forced a retreat on plans to close a number of mines.

But as the 1980-82 recession took hold, rising unemployment sapped labor’s fighting capacity and drove down the living standards of many working people.

“People’s capitalism” and “property-owning democracy” were the banners under which the government simultaneously set about creating a social base for its course. As state industries were privatized, shares were offered to private individuals, with the number of shareholders increasing from 3 million to 12 million, including higher-paid sec-



Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher labeled miners “the enemy within.” In June 1984 “Battle of Orgreave,” above, government deployed 5,000 cops against 10,000 pickets. Failure of top labor officials in U.K. to lead social movement against assault assured rulers victory over miners.

tions of the working class. Public council houses were sold to tenants at heavily discounted prices. These measures were aimed at convincing a layer within the working class to adopt a petty-bourgeois outlook with a perceived stake in capitalism and profitability. (Many of the new “property owners” lost out, their confidence shaken, following the stock market crash of 1987.)

Gov’t provokes miners strike

In 1984, fresh on the heels of the victory over their Argentine enemy, the government dubbed the miners “the enemy within” and closed Cortonwood colliery in Yorkshire, the first of a radical pit closure program that would eventually eliminate the coal industry and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Some 150,000 miners downed tools, joined flying pickets to extend the strike action. They reached out and won support from trade unionists and others who wanted to fight back against the government’s attacks. Wives, mothers, daughters and sisters organized themselves into a women’s auxiliary and joined miners in picketing and traveling throughout the U.K. and internationally to mobilize support. Faced by this growing social movement, the government mobilized the cops, courts and media. In the course of the strike nearly 10,000 miners were arrested and the union’s funds were sequestered by the state.

Thatcher prepared by building up coal stocks. She rightly anticipated that labor leaders would refuse to back the miners in any meaningful way, scut-

ting the type of working-class solidarity that was both possible and necessary. Some openly opposed the strike; others feigned support while doing nothing.

This weakness of the labor movement was the product of decades of collaboration with the bosses by their Labour Party and the union tops. Their “beer and sandwiches” approach to the employers and governments — in the context of the post-WWII-boom when workers were winning concessions — counted for naught in a major class battle in which the very existence of the miners and their union was at stake. Above all, these bureaucrats sought to pacify working people and avoid the kind of class struggle posed by the assaults that would threaten their privileges and positions. The miners, left isolated, went down to defeat.

Through the ’90s and some years after, an “if the miners couldn’t win, how can we?” attitude was widespread in the working class. Thatcher’s successes against organized labor were singled out for praise by Prime Minister Anthony Blair, whose Labour government consolidated many of Thatcher’s gains, keeping anti-union laws that remain to this day.

At the same time a wave of strikes by engineering workers, ambulance drivers, dockworkers and on London Underground took place in 1989-90.

The 1987 stock market crash and the recession that followed exposed for the ruling class what the government had not done, and could not do, to reverse British capitalism’s crisis and declining competitiveness. Industry was leaner but *not* fitter. Thatcher’s economic and financial policies had made the U.K. more, not less, vulnerable — as was revealed anew in 2008.

For working people, unemployment remained above 2 million. New share- and house-holders saw the price of their “possessions” tumble. Support for the Conservative Party hemorrhaged, especially in the industrial north, in Scotland and in Wales.

In addition to the limitations on domestic economic and labor policy, the Thatcher government was unable to break the Irish national resistance. Moreover, factional divisions within the British ruling class over the United Kingdom’s relationship with the European Union provoked public government crises, including resignations of prominent government ministers. Thatcher’s opponents within her own party — whom she dubbed “false squires” — united to dump her in 1990.

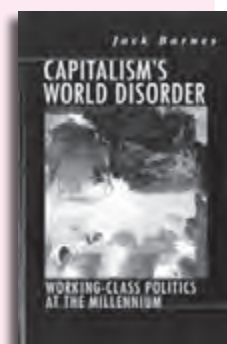


New International no. 11 *U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War* by Jack Barnes

That was what the Socialist Workers Party concluded in the wake of the collapse of regimes and parties across Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Contrary to imperialism’s hopes, the working class in those countries has not been crushed and will have to be confronted by the exploiters. \$16

Capitalism’s World Disorder *Working-Class Politics at the Millennium* by Jack Barnes

The social devastation and financial panic, coarsening of politics, cop brutality and imperialist aggression — all are products not of something gone wrong with capitalism but of its lawful workings. Yet the future can be changed by the united struggle of workers and farmers increasingly conscious of their capacity to wage revolutionary struggles for state power and to transform the world. \$25



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Rulers use bombing to target rights

Continued from front page
ple and injured more than 260.

More than 1 million residents in the Greater Boston area were instructed by Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick to take “shelter in place,” lock their doors and stay there indefinitely. Plants, offices and schools were shut down in Boston and neighboring Watertown, Newton, Cambridge, Waltham and Brookline. Buses, subways and trains were grounded.

The lockdown and massive cop mobilization began after brothers Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, and, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26 — whom the FBI identified the day before as suspects in the bombing — were in a shootout with cops in Watertown. Tamerlan was killed, while his younger brother Dzhokhar escaped.

According to police accounts, the two Chechen immigrants had posted material supporting Islamist jihadism, as well as Chechen independence from Russia, on the Internet. The two brothers came to the U.S. 10 years ago when their family sought asylum here in the midst of Russian military repression of Chechen national liberation struggles.

Metro SWAT teams brandishing assault weapons went door to door in the area where Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was hiding. He was captured, badly injured, after the lockdown was suspended that evening.

“I don’t agree with all that police action,” Giomar, an unemployed house-cleaner who declined to give her last name, told the *Militant*. “Just because of what happened doesn’t mean we need an army in Boston.” After Tsarnaev was captured, some Watertown residents gathered in the street to celebrate and thank the cops.

The Justice Department announced April 19 they intended to use a “public safety exception” to avoid informing Tsarnaev of his “Miranda rights”—the Constitutional right to have an attorney and to refuse to answer questions from the cops. The Justice Department’s High Value Interrogation Group interrogated him.

Federal Magistrate Judge Marianne Bowler convened a court hearing April 22 at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where he is being treated for bullet wounds and other injuries sustained in the firefight and arrest. Tsarnaev was charged with using a weapon of mass

destruction and malicious destruction of property resulting in death, after which Bowler read him the Miranda rights. The federal charges carry a possible death penalty. Tsarnaev also faces possible state charges.

FBI, media campaigns continue

To garner support for spy operations and other probes, the FBI and other cop agencies continue to promote the idea that a “sleeper cell” was involved.

Federal agents questioned acquaintances of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, identified as Azamat and Dias Timur, in New Bedford, where he attended the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Later the two were arrested on immigration charges.

Much of the media coverage has been aimed at making working people fearful and feel dependent on government cops and spies for their safety.

The *New York Post* reported April 17 that cops and firefighters ordered the evacuation of an 11-story commercial building in the Chelsea neighborhood of New York after a “small white box” was found on the side of the building. It turned out to be an empty pizza box.

There are numerous calls in the media for more leeway for cop spying, broad expansion of the use of “smart” surveillance cameras, and other further inroads against political rights.

Boston had only 150 police surveillance cameras, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, while in New York there are over 3,000 networked government and corporate cameras in the financial district alone, and some 400,000 cameras in London. Such cameras are now capable of “activity forecasting,” and recognizing “anomalous” behavior, the paper said.

The police “have to realize that the threat is coming from the Muslim community and increase surveillance there,” U.S. Rep. Peter King, a Republican from New York, told the *National Review*.

A few politicians have sought to use the Boston bombings to derail the immigration reform bill in the Senate.

“How can we beef up security checks on people who wish to enter the U.S.?” Sen. Charles Grassley from Iowa said at the opening of a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the bill.

The Internet is alive with reaction-

Toronto meeting: ‘Jury of millions will free Cuban 5’



Militant photos by John Steele
TORONTO —

Two hundred people packed the United Steelworkers hall here April 20 to hear Adriana Pérez (inset), wife of Gerardo Hernández, one of the Cuban Five (see box on this page). Toronto

Cuban Consul General Javier Dómokos Ruiz also spoke and messages from Steelworkers National Director Ken Neumann and New Democratic Party Member of Parliament Olivia Chow were read at the event, which was organized by the USW and Friends of the Cuban Five. The previous week Pérez addressed the April 16-18 Steelworkers convention in Vancouver where 650 delegates unanimously passed a resolution calling on U.S. President Barack Obama to free the Cuban Five.

Pérez called on participants at the April 20 meeting to build a large contingent from Canada to participate in the June 1 international “free the Cuban Five” demonstration in Washington, D.C. The Five “have not for a single second abandoned their certainty of returning to Cuba,” Pérez said, pointing to their confidence that a “jury of millions” would eventually win their freedom.

—JOHN STEELE

ary conspiracy theories, which promote helplessness in face of supposed complex, mysterious and powerful forces. The blasts, Mike Adams wrote on NaturalNews.com, were deployed by the Boston bomb squad to be “used as a pretext for the President to call for TSA agents to be on the streets at all future sporting events.”

At the same time, a substantial layer of liberal commentators and political figures clearly hoped that the perpetrators of the bombings would turned out to be right-wing Caucasians à la Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh or “Unabomber” Ted Kaczynski, on the premise that the social consequences would then not be so bad.

“Let’s hope the Boston Marathon bomber is a white American,” David Sirota recently wrote for Salon.com. That, he argues, would “prevent an *overreaction* to the heinous attacks in Boston.”

Such comments were seized upon by a layer of conservatives and rightists who argue that those who defend the rights of Muslims and immigrants against spying and discrimination harbor prejudicial attitudes toward working people who are Caucasian and disingenuously seek to conceal supposed “terrorist” dangers from Muslim communities and the foreign-born.

John Studer contributed to this article.

Who are the Cuban Five?

Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the activities of Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups operating in southern Florida. These paramilitary outfits, organizing on U.S. soil with virtual impunity, have a long record of carrying out bombings, assassinations and other deadly attacks, both against targets in Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution in the United States, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

On Sept. 12, 1998, the five were arrested by the FBI. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, which included acting as unregistered agents of the Cuban government and possession of false identity documents. Without a shred of evidence, three were charged with “conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information.”

Hernández was also convicted of conspiracy to commit murder based on the pretext that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government’s 1996 shoot-down of two aircraft flown by the counterrevolutionary group Brothers to the Rescue that had invaded Cuban airspace in disregard of Havana’s repeated warnings. He is serving two life terms plus 15 years.

All but René González remain in prison. In October 2011 he began serving a three-year “supervised release.” On the pretext of his dual citizenship, his request to return to Cuba has been denied. His wife, Olga Salanueva, is barred from entering the United States, as is Adriana Pérez, the wife of Hernández.

MAY DAY ACTIONS

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Legalization for All! Stop Deportations!
Assemble at Union Park, Ashland and Lake, 2 p.m.; march, 3 p.m.; rally at Federal Plaza, 4:30 p.m. *Sponsor: Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. Tel.: (312) 332-7360 ext. 224.*

NEW YORK

Manhattan

May Day March and Rally. Assemble at Union Square 12 noon. *Sponsored by May 1st Coalition for Worker & Immigrant Rights. Tel: (212) 633-6646.*

Labor Rights, Immigrant Rights, Jobs for All! Assemble at Union Square, 4 p.m.; march, 5:30 p.m.; rally at City Hall, 6 p.m. *Sponsored by Labor Rights, Immigrant Rights, Jobs for All Coalition. Tel.: (212) 239-7323, (917) 488-2515.*

Hempstead

March for Immigrant Rights. Assemble at corner of North Franklin and Front streets, 10 a.m. *Tel.: (516) 808-3253.*

OREGON:

Portland

International Workers Day! No Human Being Is Illegal! People Over Profit!

Assemble at O’Bryant Square, SW Washington Street. Rally, 3 p.m.; march, 4 p.m. *Tel.: (503) 233-6787.*

Salem

March and Rally for One Oregon: Driver’s Licenses for All Immigrants! A Path to Citizenship for All! Assemble at Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE. *Tel.: (503) 409-2473.*

TEXAS

Houston

Vigil to Defend Immigrant Rights. Guadalupe Plaza, Wed., May 1, 6 p.m.
March and Rally for Unity: Justice for Workers and Immigrants. Sat., May 4, 4 p.m. Renwick and Bellaire.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

National Day for Immigration Reform and International Workers Day. Assemble at Judkins Park, 611 20th Ave. S., 1 p.m. March to Federal Building, 3 p.m. *Tel.: (206) 650-2106.*

Yakima

March and Rally for a Fair and Humane Immigration Reform. Assemble at Miller Park, 3rd and East E. Street, 5:30 p.m. *Tel.: (509) 728-6679.*

FBI framed union militants to gag opponents of WWII

Below is an excerpt from Teamster Bureaucracy, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. The book by Farrell Dobbs tells the story of how the leadership of Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544 organized to oppose Washington's entry into World War II, and how the capitalist rulers — backed by the top union officialdom — accelerated government efforts to silence class-struggle minded workers in the late 1930s. Dobbs (1907-1983) emerged from the ranks in Minneapolis to help build the Teamsters into a fighting union throughout the Midwest in the mid-1930s and became a central leader of the Socialist Workers Party. Copyright © 1977 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

As Roosevelt prepared for war against imperialist rivals abroad, he launched an assault on the working class here at home. The aims were to gag opponents of his foreign policy and to prevent industrial disputes from escalating into production stoppages. Towards those ends, all agencies of government were mobilized for a crackdown on the more aggressive sections of organized labor.

On the industrial front, repressive measures were instituted through a presidential decree barring “strikes against the government.” This proscription ex-



Leaders of several Teamster locals in Iowa, above, were framed up in 1939 after successful bakery workers strike. From left, Howard Fouts, Ralph Johnson, Jack Maloney, Francis Quinn, Louis Miller and Walter Stultz. A seventh, Earl Carpenter, was still in jail when photo was taken.

tended beyond public employees and WPA [Works Progress Administration] workers. It was used to justify attacks on picket lines generally, through phony “government seizure” of struck facilities in private industry. Roosevelt could go only so far in acting as an outright strikebreaker before incurring serious political risks. So he stepped up governmental interference inside the trade unions, the object being to assure domination of the labor movement by bureaucrats who supported his line.

Vicious attacks followed on the political rights and civil liberties of militant workers, especially those opposed to Washington's foreign policy. They were subjected to intensive red-baiting, as a propaganda cover for the actions taken against them. An assortment of presidential orders and legislative measures served as weapons in the assault. Among these was the notorious Smith Act. Labor's “friend” in the White House signed that thought-control instrument into law in June 1940, despite widespread protests from labor and civil liberties organizations.

A key role in the unfolding witch-hunt was assigned to J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Roosevelt gave Hoover free rein to use his forces as political police. The top federal cop proceeded with great zeal in carrying out the assignment, and the president winked at the illegal methods

Hoover employed in flagrant violation of the Bill of Rights. Undercover activities were carried on to infiltrate and disrupt trade unions and workers' political parties. FBI operatives spied on labor organizations, functioned as agents provocateurs, planted or recruited informers in the workers' ranks—all to engineer frame-ups of militants. Those who became targets of the political cops were prosecuted in a brutal manner, usually on charges of “conspiring” to violate one or another federal law.

In most instances the proceedings began with secret indictments on the stiffest possible counts. If the issuance of indictments was made public, the names of those involved were likely to be concealed. Surprise arrests followed, taking place as a rule in the small hours of the morning. The victims, who didn't know they were wanted by the FBI, were dragged off to jail in a manner that enabled the boss press to dishonestly picture them as dangerous criminals. Once they had been put behind bars, outrageously high bail was set for their release pending trial.

New twists came into play when the cases were tried in the federal courts. Trumped-up evidence was presented by FBI agents and by stool pigeons who had been coached as government witnesses. When defendants took the stand to rebut the false testimony, U.S. attorneys subjected them to savage cross-exam-

ination and deliberate character assassination. Such acts of intimidation were accompanied by legal ploys devised to obstruct counsel for the defense. ...

These tactics were intended to serve a broader purpose. They were designed to generate fear throughout the labor movement of the dire consequences that would result for anyone who got out of line with Roosevelt and Company.

Operations of this kind were thus begun against the Midwest Teamsters during 1938, in the aftermath of a bakery strike conducted by IBT Local 383 in Sioux City, Iowa. During the walkout a truck was allegedly burned near the Iowa-Minnesota line—far from Sioux City, where the actual struggle took place. The boss press tried to put the blame on Local 383. Local officers denounced the smear attack and suggested that a company had deliberately burned one of its rigs in a bid for public sympathy. In the end, the union won the fight. Peaceful relations were resumed with the bakery firms, and the incident was forgotten by everyone—except the federal police.

In the fall of 1939 the FBI arrested seven leaders of Teamster locals in Des Moines, Omaha, and Sioux City. All were charged with conspiracy in connection with the alleged truck-burning a year earlier. Since the Des Moines and Omaha locals had not been involved in the Sioux City dispute, there could be only one reason why officers of those unions were included in the roundup. The “burning” episode was being parlayed into an attack on the IBT's main strongholds in the Missouri Valley, so as to weaken the organization throughout the entire region.

Preparation of the frame-up had begun soon after the bakery strike was settled. An elaborate survey was made of the highway at the state border, to cook up a phony claim that the 1938 incident was an interstate matter. That put the case under federal jurisdiction. Standard operating procedures were then followed—as described above—to secure indictments, make the arrests, put the defendants on trial, and railroad them to prison. All seven of the victimized Teamster leaders had to serve two-year terms.

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May **BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25% DISCOUNT

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by Farrell Dobbs
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SWP CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

Legalize! Organize! Unionize!

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in New York City to sugar workers in the Upper Midwest. The aim is to crush our basic defense organizations, the unions, whose membership stands at its lowest level in nearly a century and whose fighting capacity has been sapped by decades of the officialdom's collaboration with the bosses and their political parties.

Working-class unity is constantly interrupted by capitalists' efforts to divide and weaken our ranks. Jobless and employed are forced to compete as commodities in the "labor market." Denial of rights to some and other forms of oppression are used to sow divisions and drive down the wages of all.

Under Jim Crow segregation, African-Americans were legally branded as second-class citizens with fewer rights. While union officials refused to organize a social movement to support the struggle for Black liberation, the South remained unorganized with the lowest wages. All of labor throughout the U.S. suffered and this colossal failure still reverberates today.

Today there are more than 11 million fellow workers legally branded without the basic rights of citizenship, subject to arrest, harassment, deportation and separation from their families at any time. This is one of the biggest bludgeons wielded against the working class, used to substantially drive down our wages and working conditions over the last several decades.

Championing the fight for the rights of undocumented immigrants and legalization is a life-or-death question for labor today. This must go hand in hand with the call: "Wherever you were born, whatever language you speak, let's organize, join together, stand up and fight. Let's build our unions and bring union power to bear against the common exploiter." A strong and united labor movement could fight for a massive government-funded public works program to put millions of unemployed to work and deal a further blow to capitalist-fostered competition among working people.

In 2000 the AFL-CIO set an important example when it reversed its decades-long anti-working-class position on immigration and called on the U.S. government to grant amnesty to all undocumented immigrants, as top labor officials began to grapple with steps needed to reverse declining unionization.

The reform bills under discussion today offer a road — a long and arduous one — to legal status for millions. They also include a raft of anti-working-class measures designed to maintain a pool of superexploitable immigrant labor for the bosses. These include expansion of "guest worker" programs, stepped-up

enforcement and stiffer penalties for violations of immigration law, moves toward a national ID card and extension of E-Verify government database checks. The AFL-CIO's support for the current bills under discussion in Congress represents a retreat from the example it set just 13 years ago.

The Socialist Workers Party urges all workers to join actions across the country on May Day to demand legalization. May Day — International Workers Day — was born in 1886 in Chicago as part of the struggle for the eight-hour workday. The historic working-class holiday was reborn in 2006 when some 2 million immigrant workers nationwide shut down factories and took to the streets to demand legalization. That kind of fighting spirit is exactly what we need today.

Capitalism's thirst for immediate profit has brought workers together from every corner of the globe. This in turn has strengthened the working class with a breadth of class-struggle experience that helps broaden our world outlook and internationalist spirit. This makes it a little easier to see that, just as the penetration of capital and the bosses' use of wage disparities respects no borders, neither can our struggles. There is no avoiding the reality that workers must organize not only across all divisions of nationality in the U.S., but across the border into Mexico and beyond.

The government's immigration debate takes place as the fight for immigrant rights is winning broader sympathy among native-born workers. The door has been cracked open — now is the time to come into the streets and kick it down in the name of labor solidarity.

Full legalization for undocumented workers without restrictions! No more firings and deportations! End E-Verify! The working class must confront the bosses assault on labor under the banner of: Legalize! Organize! Unionize!



Militant/Cheryl Goertz

Banner "Legalize! Organize! Unionize!" at April 10 rally in Atlanta for immigrant rights captures how legalization fight is tied to organizing and strengthening unions.

1,000 coal miners protest in St. Louis

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chanting "We are union" and "U-M-W-A."

As they arrived at the park, UMWA members planted white crosses — 1,000 of them — signifying miners who have died in the mines, or who stand to die if Patriot is successful in dumping its retiree health care.

In 2007 Peabody Energy spun off its union mines into Patriot Coal. Filing for bankruptcy in July 2012, Patriot Coal is using the courts to eliminate pensions and health benefits for retired miners and rip up the union contract.

"If we let them get away with this, they will take everything you have. We're not going to let it happen," Dan Kane, UMWA international secretary-treasurer, told the crowd.

The next rally will take place in St. Louis April 29. Mine workers from Australia, where Peabody owns 11 mines, will join the solidarity action, Kane said. That day Patriot will present a motion at a bankruptcy hearing here to scrap collective bargaining agreements and "modify" retiree benefits.

The April 16 action, held during a downpour, included remarks by Bill Lucy from the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and Timothy Drea, Illinois AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer.

Cecil Roberts, UMWA international president, concluded the rally by introducing the 14 people who would be arrested that day. At each rally, the UMWA has organized a civil disobedience action by sitting in

the street across from Peabody or Patriot offices.

Jim Householder, a retired UMWA member from Kentucky, told the *Militant* that four union members go to St. Louis every week to organize daily informational picketing outside Peabody headquarters. "This is not just a fight against Peabody or Patriot, but for people in the U.S. who work for any company or the state and federal government," he said.

According to the April 12 *Wall Street Journal*, Patriot has offered the UMWA a 35 percent stake in the company and a six-month extension of retirees' health coverage in exchange for accepting its moves. The proposal also seeks work rule changes and other concessions from union workers and retirees.

"Unfortunately, Patriot simply does not have the financial resources to support its current benefit levels," the company said in the revised proposal.

Patriot owns one mine in northern West Virginia, eight in southern West Virginia and two in western Kentucky. It employs 4,100 people with more than 1,600 represented by the UMWA and 2,500 nonunion.

"When we went back to work in 2003, the mine was still Peabody and then became Patriot," Terry Miller, president of Local 1793 at a Patriot-owned mine in Kentucky, told the *Militant*. "We knew what was going on. Peabody dumped all their union mines into Patriot and then Patriot went bankrupt. We need to show solidarity and stick together and stay strong and we will get through this."

Venezuela election

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Washington chimed in on cue: "A 100 percent audit of the results" is "important, prudent and necessary," said White House spokesman Jay Carney April 15.

Capriles called for protests in the streets, including a mass march in Caracas April 17, but called it off after Maduro accused Capriles of planning a coup.

Venezuela's National Electoral Council announced April 18 that it would conduct a full audit.

Chávez, a former army commander, was elected president in 1998, amid mobilizations by working people against government austerity and repression. His platform promised a "third road" between socialism and capitalism. He was reelected in 2000, in 2006 and then again against Capriles in 2012.

In a move that earned the enmity of Washington and a substantial section of capitalists in Venezuela, Chávez reorganized the country's oil industry into a state capitalist enterprise and used a part of oil profits to subsidize food and fuel costs and to fund social programs. He hired construction companies to build housing in poorer neighborhoods. Some 160,000 peasants received titles to fallow land during his terms as president — though more than 80 percent of agricultural land remains in capitalist hands.

Chávez denounced the U.S. war in Afghanistan; developed friendly relations with the governments of Iran, Libya and other nations in conflict with Washington; and worst of all in the eyes of U.S. imperialism maintained close ties with revolutionary Cuba.

On April 11, 2002, Venezuelan capitalists and generals with the backing of Washington, arrested Chávez. In response, tens of thousands of working people took to the streets. The military command split, the coup collapsed and the democratically elected government was restored, giving workers confidence and providing impetus for struggles of workers and farmers.

The Venezuelan government further infuriated Washington by accepting Havana's aid to establish missions staffed by tens of thousands of Cuban volunteers. The most prominent are Barrio Adentro, where some 20,000 Cuban doctors provide free medical care, and Misión Robinson, a literacy program that has taught more than 1.5 million Venezuelans.

As part of an agreement of mutual cooperation, the Chávez government has been sending more than 100,000 barrels of subsidized oil a day to Cuba, an enormous help to that country's ability to weather the crippling effects of the U.S. economic embargo.

Contradictions of third road sharpen

But expansion of government social programs, price and currency controls, and nationalizations did not make Venezuela less vulnerable to the impact of the worldwide economic crisis that is bearing down especially hard on semicolonial countries. As the crisis sharpened, so too have the contradictions of a third road, later coined "socialism of the 21st century."

Venezuelan oil production has declined 25 percent since 2001. Inflation, between 20 and 30 percent annually, has hit working people especially hard. And crime has become a rampant social problem.

In February this year, the Chávez government implemented an 80 percent currency devaluation aimed at lowering the ballooning government budget deficit. This meant a sharp price hike for imported goods on top of the already high inflation.

During the elections, Capriles tried to recast his image as a "progressive" politician who would attack the "corruption" of Maduro and the *chavistas*.

Capriles promised to raise wages 40 percent and told his followers they should reach out to the "red shirts" (followers of Chávez) to fight crime. He toned down his criticism of the late Chávez himself and disingenuously sought to capitalize on Chávez's popularity and his opponent's weaknesses, telling Maduro, "You're no Chávez."

Capriles claimed he would "strengthen the missions," while in the same breath announced he would kick Cuban advisers out of the Venezuelan army and that "not a drop of oil will go toward financing the government of the Castros."

But as capitalist exploiters from the U.S. to Venezuela fret about the outcome of an election, their biggest problem lies outside their shortsighted view: the class struggle that is beginning to simmer underneath the surface and the revolutionary battles for workers power that lay ahead, not behind.